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## 12) ISSLR XII site selection and discussion

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### Topic:

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**Topic author:** aoren

**Subject:** 12) ISSLR XII site selection and discussion

**Posted on:** 11 Jan 2011 22:24:44

**Message:**

In Mar Chiquita I plan to formally propose the Dead Sea as the venue of the 2014 ISSLR symposium. The initiative originates from Mr. Dov Litvinoff, Mayor of the Tamar Regional Council which is in charge of the civil government of the southern part of the Dead Sea area. He sent me the following letter in July:

July 12, 2010

To: Prof. Aharon Oren, President International Society for Salt Lake Research

Dear Sir,

Re: Holding ISSLR conference 2014 in the Dead Sea

Pursuant the invitation we received to attend ISSLR's planned conference on May 2011 in Cordoba; The Tamar Dead Sea Regional council will be delighted if you consider holding the society's next conference in 2014 at the Dead Sea. Tamar Regional Council is willing to do its best in order to hold a successful and enjoyable conference in our region. Please let us know if any further information is required. We are thankful for your good will and positive attitude, and looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Best Regards,

Dov Litvinoff - Mayor Tamar Regional Council

On November 2 I had a meeting with Mr. Litvinoff and with Ms. Yael Maor who is in charge of Dead Sea research and development for the Tamar Regional Council. I learned the following:

- Mr. Litvinoff has recently been in Mar Chiquita in the framework of a collaboration between several Israeli and Argentinian municipalities.
- He will attend the Mar Chiquita ISSLR symposium and present a talk.
- He is very enthusiastic about the idea of having the 2014 symposium in the Dead Sea area and wants to do all he can to make the event successful. The Tamar Regional Council also offered support to our upcoming symposium.
- We have discussed the possible venues – places I also visited together with Mark and Bindy Coleman in October. Possibilities are the guest house / hotel of Kibbutz Ein Gedi and the area of Ein Bokek at the southern end of the Dead Sea, where many hotels are available. To my opinion a meeting in Ein Gedi (a little paradise in the desert) in April-May is much more attractive than in the Ein Bokek hotel area, and when we will present the bid for the 2014 symposium we will show why. There is a round lecture theater that seats 120 - just the perfect size for us. If that is not big enough there is also the events hall of the kibbutz with seating capacity for 500.
- The Ein Gedi hotel has 150 rooms (simple - standard - luxurious), to be increased to 180 by 2014. For a preview see <http://www.ein-gedi.co.il/en/> We sure will get special rates, especially with the support of local companies that should support the meeting such as the Dead Sea Works (potash, bromine) and Ahava (cosmetics).
- If low budget accommodation is desired as well, there are the nearby youth hostel and the Ein Gedi field school.

At the Mar Chiquita symposium Dov Litvinoff and I therefore plan to present a formal proposal to hold the 2014 ISSLR event in Ein Gedi, Israel.

## Replies:

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**Reply author:** NikolayAladin  
**Replied on:** 12 Jan 2011 04:05:53  
**Message:**

Dear Aharon,  
I'm fully support proposal to have 2014 ISSLR symposium in Israel. I wish you good luck for such big work. If you wish my involvement in preparation work just let me know.  
Sincerely yours,  
Nick Aladin

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**Reply author:** aoren  
**Replied on:** 12 Jan 2011 04:10:05  
**Message:**

I assume that Israel will not the only option, and we are looking forward to see what other offers will be presented during the Mar Chiquita meeting.

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**Reply author:** btimms  
**Replied on:** 16 Jan 2011 00:59:24  
**Message:**

You can be sure Aharon that there will be other proposals for a meeting in 2014, especially from China. It could be a hard choice for members. We have never had a conference in your area of the world (closest was Barcelona in 1988?).

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**Reply author:** aoren  
**Replied on:** 16 Jan 2011 01:02:18  
**Message:**

I am sure there will be other proposals, and if so, it just proves one point: that we have a well-functioning society with enough enthusiastic people who are willing to spend their time and effort to advance the goals of the society.

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**Reply author:** NikolayAladin  
**Replied on:** 19 Jan 2011 00:52:06  
**Message:**

Dear all,  
am I come this year to Argentina or 2014 to Israel I could speak only on Aral and Caspian. My other studies are insignificant.  
Sincerely yours,  
Nick Aladin

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**Reply author:** Zhengmianping  
**Replied on:** 23 Jan 2011 01:00:56  
**Message:**

Proposal for hosting the next ISSLR Conference in China

I propose holding the XII ISSLR Conference in Yuncheng City, China in 2014. This is the third time I make such a proposal.  
My reasons are as follows:  
1. Salt lakes in Yuncheng, Shanxi Province, have a salt exploitation history of over 5,000 years. Many salt production technologies were developed in early times. Dr. Joseph Needham, the late scientist of Cambridge University, Britain, called the 堽reclamation-furrowing-irrigation (with

brine)-solar evaporation technique the living fossil in the history of science and technology of China. You may have a chance to understand the ancient salt production process through personal experience. Great changes have taken place now. Modern enterprises have been set up to exploit salt lake resources such as mirabilite, sodium sulfate, medical mud, and floating on saline water. Yuncheng City, Shanxi Province, borders on salt lakes of Yuncheng with a beautiful environment and is one of the ten top charming cities in China. It has a long history of several thousand years and historical remains may be seen everywhere. The government gives strong support to holding the conference and will provide all conveniences. There are adequate space for plenary sessions and space for concurrent sessions. The distance between Beijing and Yuncheng is 500 km and it is easily accessible by airplane, train, and bus from Beijing.

2. There are numerous salt lakes in China, which are distributed at highly varied attitudes, belong to different hydrochemical types and are characterized by different eco-environments and abundant, diversified halophiles. In addition to exchanging ideas at the meeting, the participants will have a chance to make field trips to investigate salt lakes with different characteristics, such as salt lakes in Tibet, Qinghai, and Inner Mongolia. For salt lakes in Tibet, you may investigate organisms and deposits in saline and super-saline lakes such as Nam Co (co means lake in Tibetan) the largest saline lake in the plateau and Siling Co, changes in flooded lakes, and lake terraces. In the Qaidam basin of Qinghai, a group of salt lakes appeared during the formation of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, such as Gahai Lake, Qinghai Lake, and Qarhan Lake. You may investigate *Artemia* in Gahai Lake, Birds' Island in Qinghai Lake, and sodium, potassium, and boron minerals in Qarhan Lake. In addition, you may have a chance to go to Dunhung on the Silk Road to enjoy frescoes in the Mogao Grottoes, one of the most precious treasure houses of Buddhist art in China. Salt lakes in Inner Mongolia are typical soda lakes in deserts. We will show you how the local herdsmen use soda lakes to change their life style and improve the prairie eco-environment.

3. The governments of Qinghai Province and Golmud City will give great assistance to the holding of the conference and provide all favorable conditions for the investigation of salt lakes on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

4. The government, scientific institutions, and local salt lake mining companies will provide financial support and establish a foundation to fund some students and salt lake scientists of developing countries. They can apply for reducing their conference registration fees, hotel fees, and international traveling expenses. After the Organizing Committee studies their applications according to their actual conditions (the quality of the abstracts of their papers submitted and their actual financial conditions), they will be granted financial assistance.

The following is the proposal.

#### Proposal for hosting the next ISSLR Conference in China

Considering major progress in salt lake research along with remarkable economic growth in China in the past ten-odd years, the next ISSLR conference in China can provide opportunities for exchanging new ideas on salt lake research with colleagues. Field trips can be offered to typical types of salt lake in the world. So we propose to host the next ISSLR conference in Yuncheng City, China. We promise to provide everything possible for the conference and sincerely welcome all salt lake researchers from all over the world to our country.

#### Conference Theme

The conference theme will be salt lake investigation and sustainable development. The conference will include six topics: salt lake ecology, salt lake sediments and paleoenvironment and paleoclimate, salt lake biotechnology, salt lake geochemistry, salt lake resources and salt lake exploitation and conservation.

#### Field Trips

There are numerous salt lakes in China, which belong to different hydrochemical types. The participants will have a chance to make field trips to investigate the salt lakes with different characteristics in addition to exchanging ideas at the meeting. The following field trips will be arranged.

• Salt lakes in Yuncheng, Shanxi province: Salt lakes in Yuncheng have a salt exploitation

history of over 4,000 years. Many salt production technologies were developed in early times. Dr. Joseph Needham, the late scientist of Cambridge University, Britain, called the "reclamation-furrowing-irrigation (with brine)-solar evaporation" technique the living fossil in the history of science and techniques of China. You may have a chance to learn the ancient salt production process through personal experience. Great changes have taken place now. Modern enterprises have been set up to exploit salt lake resource such as mirabilite, sodium sulfate, medical mud, and floating on saline water.

**Salt lakes in Inner Mongolia:** There are typical soda lakes in deserts. We will show you how the local herdsmen use soda lakes to change their life style and improve the prairie eco-environment.

**Salt lakes in Qinghai:** A group of salt lakes formed during the evolution of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, such as Gahai Lake, Qinghai Lake, and Qarhan Lake. You may investigate *Artemia* in Gahai Lake, Birds' Island in Qinghai Lake, and sodium, potassium, and boron minerals in Qarhan Lake.

**Salt lakes in Tibet:** You may investigate organisms and deposits in saline lakes to super-saline lakes such as Nam Co (co means lake in Tibetan) the largest saline lake in the plateau, Bamu Co.

#### Host City

The conference will be held in the Yuncheng of Shanxi Province or Xining City of Qinghai Province.

#### Cost

Registration fee: proposed \$350 for regular, \$100 for students (includes the conference materials, abstracts, food, station or airport engagement; banquet).

#### Field trip:

Pre- and Mid- conference field trip: Yuncheng salt lake, No charge

Cost for Post-conference field trip (including food, transportation and accommodation):

Route 1: Salt Lakes in Inner Mongolia (3 days): \$100 for regular, \$50 for students.

Route 2: Qinghai Lake, Gaihai Lake, and Qarhan Lake: \$700 for regular; \$500 for students.

Route 3: Salt lake in Tibet: Nam Co, and Bamu Co.: \$700 for regular; \$500 for students.

#### Grants

It is proposed that a foundation be established to fund some doctor students and salt lake scientists of developing countries. They can apply for reducing their conference registration fees, hotel fees, and international traveling expenses. After the Organizing Committee studies the applications according to their actual conditions (the quality of their abstracts submitted and their actual financial conditions), they will be granted financial assistance.

**Reply author:** aoren

**Replied on:** 23 Jan 2011 01:15:34

#### Message:

I am pleased that we will have more than one option for the 2014 symposium. As we did in the past, after the presentations in Argentina we will have an informal, advisory vote by the meeting participants, and the decision will be made by the board in January 2012.

**Reply author:** mcoleman

**Replied on:** 23 Jan 2011 01:56:52

#### Message:

Two board members have made proposals. Others may come forward. If the direction by the members at large is ambiguous it may be difficult for the board to make a decision.

**Reply author:** sarosj

**Replied on:** 23 Jan 2011 18:09:08

**Message:**

The proposals for China and Israel are both impressive, and I think both would be attractive to members. The proposal for China has a number of attractive features- the location, the variety of topics suggested, and the variety and low cost of field trips is pretty amazing. The contribution of funds from the host may also facilitate greater student participation.

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**Reply author:** btimms**Replied on:** 28 Jan 2011 12:24:16**Message:**

Yes I am also impressed by both proposals for the next conference. Having already attended a Chinese conference I can vouch for the fantastic field trips. And the anticipated costs are amazing.

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**Reply author:** aoren**Replied on:** 15 Apr 2011 21:34:33**Message:**

Dear friends,

Below is some correspondence I had yesterday, which I want to share with you. Comments are welcome.

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Quoting "Anya Waite" <[anya.waite@uwa.edu.au](mailto:anya.waite@uwa.edu.au)>:

> Dear Prof Oren

>

> I note that the International Salt Lake Society is due for its next meeting in 2014. Might you consider delaying this to early in 2015, and holding the meeting in Perth (February 2015)? I am submitting a bid to host ASLO 2015 in Perth, Australia, and my sense was that including a collaboration with the International Salt Lake Society might be of benefit to both organizations.

>

> Please could you indicate whether this is something you might consider?

>

> Many thanks

> Anya Waite

>

> Prof. Anya M. Waite

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Dear Prof. Waite,

Thank you for this message. I sure agree with you that collaborations with other limnological organizations may be of mutual benefit. However, I trust you are aware of the fact that six years ago the ISSLR symposium was also held in Perth (organized by Dr. Jacob John).

Our society will meet in Mar Chiquita next month (see <http://www.isslr-mchiquita2011.com.ar/>) and I know that there two (or maybe more?) bids to hold the 2014 symposium will be presented.

Do you intend to come to Mar Chiquita and formally present a bid to host our meeting in Perth? If not, you may send me the necessary documentation and I can present it in Perth in your name.

With best wishes,

Aharon Oren

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**Reply author:** aoren

**Replied on:** 13 May 2011 13:38:01

**Message:**

Dear friends,

Here is a copy of the message I just sent to Prof. Anya Waite in Perth, following the informal vote we just had about the selection of the venue for the next ISSLR symposium:

Dear Prof. Waite, dear Anya,

Greetings from Miramar, Mar Chiquita, Argentina.

Today we held a business meeting in which three bids were presented to hold the next ISSLR symposium: one from China, one from Israel, and one from Australia. I presented the slide show you sent me.

In the discussion that followed the presentations, the comments raised included:

1. The society prefers to remain independent and not to link our symposium with the symposium of another, much larger society.
2. Natives of Perth assured us that the climate in Perth in February is very unpleasant and that it is not recommended to visit there in that season.
3. All tours suggested are to locations very far from Perth, and are not easy daytrips.
4. The cost of most forms of accommodation offered is relatively high.

In the informal ballot that followed, to be used as a recommendation by the board of the ISSLR when the final decision will be taken, the Perth, Australia - February 2015 option got zero votes.

Therefore the choice for the next ISSLR symposium, to be held in 2014, will either be China or Israel.

On behalf of the board and the members of the ISSLR I thank you for offering to hold our meeting in Perth, and I wish you much success in your efforts to host the ASLO symposium in Perth in February 2015.

Sincerely,

Prof. Aharon Oren

President of the International Society for Salt Lake Research

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**Reply author:** clitchfield

**Replied on:** 14 May 2011 05:46:30

**Message:**

From Mar Chiquita

During the discussion at the the business meeting, a valid point was raised by Stuart Hurlbert and Wayne concerning our considerations of meeting venues. The price of many locations has become prohibitive to graduate students and beginning professionals. It is very important then to

consider lower priced accomodations for those who are not well funded and try to keep expenses at a minimum. Our travel grants are few and cannot begin to cover the cossts of air and meeting registrations. Therefore, I believe that this should be a consideration when we select the site for the 2014 meeting.

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